

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 178059  
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /015 R

66011  
DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/B DTOYRYLA  
APPROVED BY MRBARNEBEY

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O 141653Z JUL 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 178059

FOLLOWING REPEAT LA PAZ 5531 ACTION SECSTATE JULY 13.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 5531

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, BL  
SUBJ: BOLIVIAN ELECTIONS

1. IN THE LAST 24 HOURS THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN BOLIVIA HAS TAKEN A SHARP TURN FOR THE WORSE. THE TWO MAJOR EVENTS OF LAST NIGHT WERE THE FOLLOWING.

A. THE ELECTORAL COURT RELEASED A NEW COUNT OF THE VOTES IN POTOSI DEPARTMENT, WHERE HERNAN SILES HAD BEEN LEADING BY A MARGIN OF 2 1/2 TO 1, INCREASING PEREDA'S VOTES BY OVER 50,000 AND REDUCING (SIC) SILES' VOTES BY 7000.

THIS SUSPECT NEW COUNT, IF AUTHENTICATED BY THE  
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COURT, WOULD MAKE JUAN PEREDA PRESIDENT WITH OVER 50 PERCENT OF THE POPULAR VOTE AND A MAJORITY OF THE CONGRESS.

B. THE THREE OPPOSITION PARTIES OF HERNAN SILES, VICTOR PAZ, AND RENE BERNAL SIGNED A POLITICAL PACT PROTESTING FRAUD OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEREDA FORCES AGAINST ALL OF THEM AND DECLARING THAT NONE WOULD COOPERATE WITH PEREDA IN THE

NEW CONGRESS. (SEPTEL).

2. THE IMPLICATIONS ARE BLEAK.

AANTHE MILITARY WILL NOW LOSE THEIR PREVIOUSLY GROWING  
8,5343 5 8, :3-8,& 70 5#3 3)3:594-) 43 7)5 SINCE THIS  
297)\$ 049?-?)6 075 5#3 3)3:589, 8,59 5#3 :9,&43 2#343  
)3\*58 5 #34,-, 8)3 , IF THE OPPOSITION PACT HOLDS, COULD  
EMERGE PRESIDENT (EVEN THOUGH HE HAS NO MORE THAN  
20-25 PERCENT OF THE POPULAR VOTE).

--THE HARASSED NATIONAL ELECTORAL COURT MAY HAVE DISPAIRED  
OF ANY EFFORT TO CLEAN UP THE ELECTORAL RETURNS, JUDGING  
FROM ITS ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SUSPECT POTOSI RETURNS.

--PEREDA MAY BE ELECTED PRESIDENT VIA IRREGULARITIES, BUT  
WILL HEAD A WEAK AND PARTIALLY DISCREDITED GOVERNMENT.

-- HE WILL FACE A BITTER, UNITED AND STRIDENT OPPOSITION  
WHOSE SIZE AND FERVOR WILL BE THE RESULT OF THE GOVERN-  
MENT'S OWN HAM-HANDED EFFORTS TO TILT THE ELECTIONS.

--THE PROSPECTS FOR DISORDER AND VIOLENCE HAVE INCREASED  
SHARPLY.

3. IN SHORT, PEREDA, WHO WOULD HAVE WON A SIZEABLE PLURALITY  
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IN CLEAN ELECTIONS AND COULD HAVE EASILY FORMED A COALITION  
WITH EITHER OF HIS TWO MODERATE OPPONENTS, PAZ AND BERNAL,  
HAS CLUMSILY PULLED A MORAL DEFEAT FROM THE FAWS OF NEAR-  
CERTAIN VICTORY. BOLIVIAN POLITICS MAY NOW BE STARKLY  
POLARIZED BETWEEN RIGHT AND LEFT, WITH NEITHER ABLE TO  
GOVERN EFFECTIVELY WITHOUT REPRESSION--AN UNNECESSARY AND  
DANGEROUS RESULT. BOEKER UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTION RESULTS, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, ELECTION FRAUD  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE178059  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** AND/B DTOYRYLA  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Subject:** BOLIVIAN ELECTIONS  
**TAGS:** PINT, BL  
**To:** CARACAS BOGOTA MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014